

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148789
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 MMO-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS AUABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148789

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SO, UR, ET, PGOV

SUBJECT: SOMALI RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH A DEPARTMENT OFFICER,
SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD
ORGANIZED A DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE
SOMALI ACQUIESCENCE TO SOVIET POLICY IN THE HORN. ADDOU
HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY THE BULGARIAN, CZECH AND THE POLISH
AMBASSADORS HERE, AND HIS COLLEAGUE IN LONDON HAD REPORTED
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PAGE 02 STATE 148789

EAST EUROPEAN CONTACTS THERE AS WELL. THE THEME OF THESE
REPRESENTATIONS HAS BEEN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE COMMITTED TO
SUPPORT THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WHICH THEY BELIEVE MAY BE
THE FIRST AUTHENTIC COMMUNIST REVOLUTION SINCE OCTOBER 1917.
IN ADDITION, THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR ACHIEVING A SOCIALIST FEDERATION EMBRACING SOMALIA,
ETHIOPIA, ERITREA, DJIBOUTI, AND ULTIMATELY SUDAN AND THUS

FORM A LINK ACROSS AFRICA TO LIBYA. THE EAST EUROPEANS INSIST THAT NATIONAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS SOMALI-INHABITED TERRITORY IN ETHIOPIA OUGHT NOT TO STAND IN THE WAY OF SUCH A GRAND DESIGN. AS THE BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT, THERE ARE PLENTY OF BULGARS IN YUGOSLAVIA, YET EVERYONE GETS ALONG WELL FOR THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM.

2. ADDOU INSISTED THAT WHILE SIAD WAS FORCED BY THE TACTICAL REQUIREMENTS OF HIS POSITION TO MAINTAIN PUBLICLY

SOMALIA'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIALISM AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USSR, IN FACT SIAD WAS DETERMINED, ONCE HE HAD ACHIEVED THE NECESSARY ROOM TO MANEUVER, TO GET THE SOVIETS OUT. ADDOU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EVEN SO, SOMALIA WOULD NOT ABANDON THIRD WORLD SOCIALIST RHETORIC, OR SOCIALISM AS ITS DOMESTIC MODEL, BUT HE INSISTED THAT IF SIAD WERE ABLE, HE WOULD NOT RETAIN THE SOVIET CONNECTION ANY LONGER THAN NECESSARY, EVEN THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGE IN DOING SO.

3. ADDOU SAID THAT STRICT SECRECY OF SIAD'S OPENING TO THE WEST HAS NOW BEEN RELAXED. THIS EVIDENT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUCH AS NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WHERE SIAD UNEQUIVOCALLY STRESSED GAP BETWEEN SOVIET AND SOMALI VIEWS ON ETHIOPIA, AND ALSO IN FACT THAT SOMALI AMBASSADORS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS INDICATING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 148789

GSDR CAN NO LONGER TRUST USSR AND MUST MAKE EFFORTS DIVERSIFY ITS TIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ADDOU'S REMARKS ARE TO SOME DEGREE SELF-SERVING, WE HAVE NOTED OTHER STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SOMALI DIPLOMATS ELSEWHERE CONCERNING SIAD'S DESIRE TO EJECT THE SOVIETS. THESE AT LEAST SERVE TO COUNTER-ACT SOMEWHAT SIAD'S FREQUENT PUBLIC ASSERTIONS THAT THE REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN SOMALIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE USSR ARE SIMPLY IMPERIALIST SPECULATIONS.
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